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651/733-1189 (direct)

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651/736-7421 Serial No.: CPA of 09/425,636

Our Reference: 55197US002

Date: May 23, 2002

Total number of pages: 9

Enclosed is a **Preliminary Amendment** for the following patent application:

Application of: Douglas Quong

CPA of Serial Number: 09/425,636

Filed: March 6, 2002

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeads

Please transmit the Preliminary Amendment to the following Examiner:

Examiner: H. Nguyen

Group Art Unit: 1617

Examiner Nguyen, this is the Preliminary Amendment that was originally

faxed on March 29, 2002 (see copies of fax confirmations).

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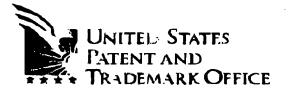
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Cross Art Unit: 1617

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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company

Phone: 651/733-1189 (direct) Fax: 651/736-7421 Seath Nov: CPA 109/625.636

Scrial No.: CPA of 09/425,636 Our Reference: 55197U5002

ן סוטן שתשטבר טל שמשכש: ס

Date: March 29, 2002

Enclosed is a Preliminary Amendment for the following patent application:

Application of: Douglas Quong

CPA of Serial Number: 09/425,636

Filed: March 6, 2002

Title: Active Material Within Hydrogel Microbeada

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Ezaminer: H. Nguyen

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PATENT

Docket No.: 55197US002

In The United States Patent and Trademark Office

In re Application of: Douglas Quong

Group Art Unit: 1617

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Examiner: Nguyen, H.

GROUP 1600

CPA Filed: March 6, 2002

For: ACTIVE MATERIAL WITHIN HYDROGEL MICROBEADS

P 1 6 13:30.02

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Serial No.: 09/425,636

Filed: October 22, 1999

Dear Sir:

DOCKETED BY

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims

Please amend Claim 1 to read as follows:

- (twice amended) A method of delivering and releasing active material comprising the steps of:
 - a) providing hydrogel microbeads each comprising a plurality of active material droplets entrained within a hydrophilic matrix that is cured non-chemically at temperatures in the range of about 10°C to about 40°C or that is cured chemically, said microbeads having an average diameter between about 1 μm to about 1000 μm;
 - b) creating a suspension of a plurality of said microbeads;

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date shown below:

Date: / / Wich 29, 2002 Signed

ucy C. Weiss, Keg. No. 32,83